LEARNING SUPPORT PROGRAM (LSP)

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St. Clare School's Learning Support Program (LSP) serves our entire school community and is designed to help each student feel and be successful at school, providing both academic, behavioral, and social-emotional support.

The LSP is based on the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)* model and promotes the awareness of diverse learning needs and the individual talents of all students.

<u>Programs administered through this department include:</u>

- Learning intervention groups
- School-wide Universal Screening
- Individual Educational Testing (K-8) and Triennial Testing (Grades 5 & 8), by referral
- Differentiated instruction for all learners
- Individualized Learning Plans (ILPs) for those who qualify
- Coordination between providers and the school when needed
- Needs-based "push in" services in some classrooms
- Special supports for students who struggle and/or excel
- Ongoing teacher education and support
- Parent education library/resources

We make every effort to help our students through classroom accommodations and learning interventions and coordination of services such as outside tutoring, counseling, and other specialized therapies.

What is MTSS?

Our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) model uses an academic universal assessment system to identify students who are not meeting benchmarks, while allowing us to look holistically at a student's academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs. We provide three levels of intervention:

- **Tier One** consists of universal, classroom-level supports delivered by the teacher (e.g., differentiated reading and math groups, preferential seating, one-on-one help, and organizational systems).
- **Tier Two** offers targeted, evidence-based small-group interventions to address specific skills, language needs, or social-emotional goals (e.g., Orton-Gillingham groups, enrichment, math or fluency groups, friendship circles, and ELL services) led by learning support staff.
- **Tier Three** provides more intensive, individualized support. For students with documented learning disabilities or significant high-level needs, we are typically able to offer some level of specialized one-on-one intervention. Students with diagnosed learning differences generally benefit from a combination of all three tiers of support.

Educational Testing & Triennial Testing

We provide some individual educational testing for students in Grades K-8 and triennial testing in Grade 5 and Grade 8. The goal of this component of our LSP is to identify students who, through teacher's formative assessment, observations, and specific data from STAR Testing, are at risk for a learning disability. Ideally, students are identified before the end of Grade 2 and testing is recommended and scheduled. If these students have a specific learning disability, they would be tested again in Grade 5 in preparation for middle school, and finally, in Grade 8 prior to high school. The protocol follows these steps:

- Teacher and/or learning specialist identifies the need for student academic testing.
- The need is discussed with parents by the teacher and learning specialist.
- Testing options are discussed with parents by the teacher and learning specialist. Options include: In-house testing (Mrs. Carolyn Ullman) (free and onsite), Portland Public Schools (free and on their site), private testing (cost and at their offices)
- If in-house testing is selected, the learning specialist coordinates with Mrs. Ullman to schedule testing.
- Testing report is provided by Mrs. Ullman, PPS, or outside testing company to the family and shared with the LSP in order for an ILP to be activated, if necessary, and desired by parents.

Meet Our Team

Lillian Kidwell

Mrs. Lillian Kidwell is our learning specialist. In addition to providing literacy support in Grades K-8, Lillian manages and implements all components of our LSP, including our school-wide Positive Behavioral Intervention & Supports (PBIS) program and providing direct support to all students K-8, their families, and teachers. Lillian is on-site Monday-Friday and is your contact for any and all questions about the LSP.

Mary Griffith

Mrs. Mary Griffith is our assistant learning specialist. Mary helps implement our LSP and is our math specialist. She provides all levels of math support in Grades K-8, providing remediation and enrichment support. Mary is on-site Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings.

Theresa Sabido

Mrs. Theresa Sabido is our assistant learning specialist. Theresa helps implement our LSP and provides literacy support, with a focus on early intervention in Grades K-2. Theresa is on-site all day Tuesday, ½ day Wednesday, and ½ day Thursday.

Carolyn Ullman

Mrs. Carolyn Ullman is our testing and assessment specialist. Carolyn is responsible for individual educational testing for students in Grades K-8 and triennial testing in Grade 5 and Grade 8. This level of testing is by teacher referral and happens on-site. Carolyn primarily works remotely, but is on-site for testing on Mondays.